CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	USAF Malmstrom Air Force Base Sewer Lagoon Expansion Testing
Proposed Implementation Date:	1 April 2023
Proponent:	United State Air Force (Malmstrom Air Force Base)
Location:	11N 16E 20
County:	Fergus
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The purpose of this license is to allow for surveying and geotechnical testing for the future expansion of the sewer lagoon for a missile control center. This would not authorize the expansion of the lagoon just the pre-construction testing.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Northeastern Land Office (NELO) & Lewistown Unit Office
Proponent: United States Air Force (Malmstrom Air Force Base)
Surface Lessees: EL Peterson Ranch
Other:

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all necessary permits for the proposed project, and settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission for surveying and Geotechnical testing for a sewer lagoon expansion.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission for surveying and Geotechnical testing for a sewer lagoon expansion.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:
Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Based on the soil ratings gathered from web soil survey there should be no issue with the soils regarding this project. The off road erosion hazard is minimal and the soil restoration potential is either moderate or high. The only potential issue will be the rutting hazard which is extreme. Because of this the testing will be limited to dry conditions.

No significant cumulative impacts to geology or soil quality, stability, and moisture are anticipated.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:
Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

No significant impacts to local or regional water resources are anticipated.

6. AIR QUALITY:
What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

There will be very minimal vegetation disturbance from these actions. No reseeding will be necessary.

No rare plants or cover types are present. No significant impacts to vegetation are anticipated.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

No significant impacts to terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats are anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

There area a number of species of concern noted within a mile of the project area. The fish species is not likely to be affected because there is no perennial water source near the site with connection to a stream. All of the other species are birds that are also not likely to be affected. The project area is between a missile control base with heavy traffic, including helicopters, and a busy state highway. Because of the location the habitat is already degraded and not likely to be a nesting area.

No significant impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are anticipated, though temporary displacement of local wildlife may occur during the project.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that *Antiquities* have not been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

No significant effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources anticipated.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

No significant impacts on the aesthetics of the area are anticipated.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No limited environmental resources will be significantly impacted because of this project. This project will also not add any significant cumulative demands on environmental resources.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Thew only risk to human health and safety will be during the testing phase. Some drilling equipment will be used to take soil samples. It will be the responsibility of the proponent and their subcontractors to mitigate the risks to human health and safety. After the testing is complete there will be no further risks.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

This project will not add to or deter from other industrial, agricultural, or commercial activities in the area.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The project will not create or eliminate any jobs, so no significant effects to the employment market are anticipated.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

There will not be any significant increases in traffic, school attendance, or need for fire and police protection if this project is approved.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

There will be no significant direct or cumulative effects on access to or quality of recreation and wilderness activities because of this project.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be significantly impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The proposed project will have no significant impact on any culturally unique quality of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The proposed project will not have any significant cumulative economic or social effect.

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission for surveying and Geotechnical testing for a sewer lagoon expansion.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined no significant impact to the environment because of this project.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Dustin Lenz
	Title:	Land Use Specialist
Signature:		**Date:** 7 FEBRUARY 2023

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Jocee Hedrick
	Title:	Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Signature: Jocee Hedrick		**Date:** 2/7/23

Appendix A: Soil Ratings

Off Road Erosion Hazard

Table — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Null or Not Rated	7.4	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**7.4**	**100.0%**

Soil Compactability Risk

Table — Soil Compactibility Risk — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Medium	7.4	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**7.4**	**100.0%**

Soil Rutting Hazard

Table — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Severe	7.4	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**7.4**	**100.0%**

Soil Restoration Potential

Table — Soil Restoration Potential — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
High potential	7.3	99.4%
Moderate potential	0.0	0.6%
Totals for Area of Interest	**7.4**	**100.0%**

Appendix B: Species of Concern Report

MONTANA Natural Heritage Program
A program of the **Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System**

Legend

Model Icons
- Suitable (native range)
- Optimal Suitability
- Moderate Suitability
- Low Suitability
- Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons
- Common
- Occasional

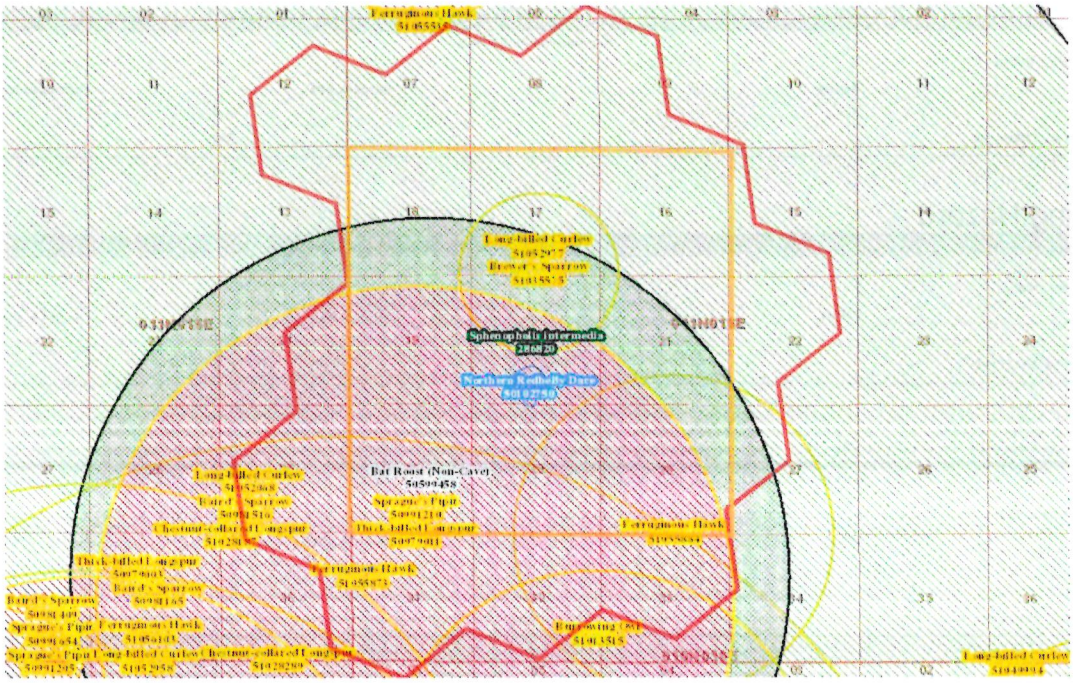
Range Icons
- Native / Year-round
- Summer
- Winter
- Migratory
- Non-native
- Historical

Num Obs
Count of obs with 'good precision' (<=1000m)
+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)

Latitude	Longitude
46.66262	-109.68561
46.73868	-109.78474

Native Species

Summarized by: **LUL-308-2300042** *(Custom Area of Interest)*
All Species (not filtered by Status)



Species Occurrences

	USFWS Sec7	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
F - Northern Redbelly Dace *(Chrosomus eos)* SOC		1	1+		Y

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**

Delineation Criteria Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards. (Last Updated: Jul 18, 2022)

Predicted Models: 12% Suitable (native range) (deductive)

B - Ferruginous Hawk *(Buteo regalis)* SOC		3	8+		S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to encompass the average home range size reported for the species and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 10, 2023)

Predicted Models: 71% Moderate (inductive), 29% Low (inductive)

B - Long-billed Curlew *(Numenius americanus)* SOC		2	3		S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 200 meters in order to approximate the breeding territory size reported for the species in Idaho and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023)

Predicted Models: 71% Moderate (inductive), 29% Low (inductive)

B - Thick-billed Longspur *(Rhynchophanes mccownii)* SOC		1	1+		S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 20, 2022)

Predicted Models: 18% Moderate (inductive), 71% Low (inductive)

B - Brewer's Sparrow *(Spizella breweri)* SOC		1	2		S M

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the maximum territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023)

Predicted Models: 6% Moderate (inductive), 94% Low (inductive)

B - Sprague's Pipit *(Anthus spragueii)* **SOC**

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 115 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory sizes reported for the species in Montana and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 28, 2022)

Predicted Models: 6% Moderate (inductive), 94% Low (inductive)

B - Chestnut-collared Longspur *(Calcarius ornatus)* **SOC**

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S2B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN2** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 115 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023)

Predicted Models: 59% Low (inductive)

B - Baird's Sparrow *(Centronyx bairdii)* **SOC**

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the average breeding territory size of the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 28, 2022)

Predicted Models: 53% Low (inductive)

B - Burrowing Owl *(Athene cunicularia)* **SOC**

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Direct observation of a bird or birds at/on a prairie dog town is indirect but sufficient evidence of breeding (b). Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 2,700 meters in order to encompass the maximum foraging distance reported for breeding adults and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 03, 2023)

Predicted Models: 24% Low (inductive)

Malmstrom AFB

Land Acquistion Area

L-01

Contour Interval
- 10'
- 20'
- 40'
- 80'
- Fence Line

HICS
- Land Acquistion
- Road Area
- Helo Pad
- Building
- Installation Area

N

0 25 50 75 100
Meters

0 125 250 375 500
Feet

May 2019

GeoBase Office
COMM: (406) 731-7249
DSN: 632-7249
341CES.GeoBase@us.af.mil
For interactive web mapping applications
and online work requests please visit:
https://malmstrom.geobase.us.af.mil/